



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

U.S. CHARGES SIX, INCLUDING NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER,
WITH PLOT TO ROB A DRUG DEALER OF HEROIN AND CASH

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ANTHONY PLACIDO, Special Agent in Charge of the New York Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, announced today that six individuals, including a New York City Police Officer, were accused in a Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court of robbery, narcotics and firearms charges.

According to the three-count Complaint, which was filed today, PORFIRIO MEJIA, a New York City Police Officer, SADIN TINEO, MIGUEL GARCIA, DANNY REYES, a/k/a "Benny," PEDRO SOSA and ISSAC VARGAS, a/k/a "Marky," conspired together to rob individuals they believed to be Colombian drug dealers of 10 kilograms of heroin and \$450,000 of cash. The purported drug dealers were, however, working with the DEA.

According to the Complaint, in late November 2004, defendant REYES asked a confidential source (the "CS") over the course of several days about whether the CS knew of any narcotics dealers who could be robbed. On December 1, 2004, at the direction of DEA, the CS met REYES in the vicinity of 605 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York. The CS had a recording device secreted on his person, which had been placed

there by agents of the DEA. During this meeting, the CS proposed that REYES commit a robbery of a Colombian narcotics dealer with whom the CS had been dealing.

On December 8, 2004, at the direction of DEA, the CS met with REYES and VARGAS in the vicinity of 605 North Avenue, New Rochelle, New York. REYES and VARGAS arrived in a blue van. As in the December 1, 2004 meeting, the CS had a recording device secreted on his person, which had been placed there by agents of the DEA. As detailed in the Complaint, during this meeting, the CS informed REYES and VARGAS that he/she would soon be with Colombian drug dealers who would have approximately \$450,000 in a car. REYES and VARGAS told the CS that they would have two or three individuals pose as police officers, who would forcibly take the money from the drug dealers, and would pretend to arrest the CS, while other participants would be watching close by for security reasons. The robbery would take place the next day.

On or about December 9, 2004, at DEA's direction, the CS met REYES and VARGAS at 239th Street and Broadway in the Bronx, New York, according to the Complaint. As in the December 1 and December 8, 2004 meetings, the CS had a recording device secreted on his person, which had been placed there by agents of the DEA. REYES and VARGAS got out of the same blue van from the previous meeting and entered the vehicle driven by the CS. The CS, REYES and VARGAS then confirmed that the robbery would take place that day. Another individual was present in

the van during this meeting, it was charged.

The CS then allegedly asked REYES and VARGAS to introduce the CS to the other participants in the robbery. REYES and VARGAS took the CS to a Chevrolet Impala parked in front of the van and entered the back seat. Inside the Impala, REYES and VARGAS introduced the CS to the driver and front passenger of the vehicle, who identified themselves as police officers. Another individual was sitting in the backseat. The CS revealed that one of the Colombian drug dealers was nearby and had 10 kilograms of heroin and about \$450,000 in cash in an automobile. It was decided that the robbery would take place soon thereafter, it was charged.

The CS then left the Impala and entered his/her own vehicle. REYES and VARGAS returned to the blue van. The CS drove to Broadway and 243rd Street and entered a Burger King parking, while he/she was followed by the blue van and the Impala. In the Burger King parking lot, the CS met another individual who was working with the DEA and posing as a Colombian drug dealer. The CS and the other individual engaged in conversation, while the Impala drove up to the Burger King parking lot. DEA agents then arrested the individuals in the Impala and the van.

The Impala was allegedly driven by MEJIA; in the front passenger seat was TINEO; and in the back seat was SOSA. Recovered from MEJIA was a nine millimeter handgun, a bulletproof vest, a police shield, a New York City Police Department ("NYPD") identification card, an NYPD radio, and

a gunbelt. The driver of the van was VARGA; the front passenger was REYES; and the rear passenger was GARCIA, the defendant, according to the Complaint.

The defendants each are charged with participating in a conspiracy to commit a Hobbs Act robbery, which involves extortion; using, carrying and possessing a firearm in furtherance of the robbery conspiracy; and conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute heroin. The Hobbs Act robbery charge carries a maximum term of 20 years in prison. The firearms charge carries a mandatory 5 year term of imprisonment, with a possible life term. The narcotics conspiracy carries a minimum term of 10 years in prison and a maximum term of life in prison.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the REDRUM group of the DEA Task Force, which is comprised of DEA agents and Detectives from the New York City Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorneys DAVID L. JAFFE and HARRY SANDICK are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges set forth in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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